

Executive Summary  
presented to the  
State of North Dakota  
64th Legislative Assembly

## **North Dakota's Displaced Homemaker Program**

[NDCC 14-06.1]

The Legislative Assembly identified an ever-increasing number of persons in North Dakota who, having fulfilled a role as homemaker, found themselves "displaced" through separation, divorce, death or disability of spouse, or other loss of support. In 1979, HB 1921 provided the parameters of the Displaced Homemaker Program and its components of counseling and guidance, job readiness training, and services for displaced homemakers to enjoy the independence and economic security vital to a productive life and to improve the health and welfare of this ever-growing population of citizens. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Adult Education unit, has been granted the authority under NDCC 14-06.1 to provide funding to the adult learning centers, who provide services to individuals who qualify for academic and career related services.

The term "displaced homemaker" has been defined by law to mean an individual who:

- a) Has worked in the individual's home providing unpaid services for household members;
- b) Has been or is unemployed or underemployed;
- c) Has had or will have difficulty finding and maintaining employment; and
  - (1) is widowed, divorced, separated, or abandoned; or
  - (2) because of the disability of the individual's spouse, is displaced from the individual's former economically dependent role.

The State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction has the authority to direct funds and designates Adult Learning Centers to

- *provide employment counseling; interpersonal skill building; job readiness, job search, and employability training; information and community referral services; and appropriate public information and community education*
- *include an outreach component capable of delivering the full range of services to groups of displaced homemakers in rural communities*
- *ensure that displaced homemakers receive information and referral services as necessary for preventive health care and consumer health education; money management and assistance programs; and, higher education opportunities*

Funding for the Displaced Homemaker Program originates from a \$50 fee assessed to each divorce filed in the state; collection is made to the State Auditor's office and transferred to the Department of Public Instruction. By law, 95% of funds must be allocated for direct services and is annually granted to the adult learning centers across the state. Also by law, the Department must provide an executive summary to the Legislative Assembly during each biennial session. Lastly, NDCC requires an advisory board to meet annually and to advise the program.

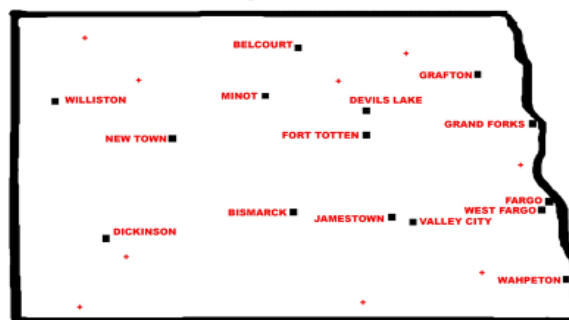
Each adult learning center is required to report annually on outcomes for students who qualify for Displaced Homemakers services. A summary for the 2013-2015 biennium (through January 30, 2015) identifies:

	2013-2014	2014-2015*	TOTAL
Income received	\$ 110,440	\$ 46,895	\$ 157,335
Students served	453 (383 female 70 male)	524 (445 female 79 male)	977
Ages			
16-24	198	180	
25-44	209	262	
45-59	40	69	
60 and older	6	13	977
Outcomes**			
Academic gains	283		
Obtain GED	239		
Post-secondary	77		
Obtain Employment	103		702 (71%)

\* through December 2014; \*\* duplicate counts and crossover of program years

Displaced Homemakers is one of many free services supported by adult learning centers across North Dakota. Other programs and services to help adults over the age of 16 obtain basic academic and educational skills to be productive workers, family members, and citizens includes: reading/writing, science, social studies, math, computer literacy and other basic academic skills, English Language acquisition for adults who are unable to read, speak or write English, workplace and career planning and readiness, and GED test preparation.

### Adult Learning Center Locations



+ Satellite Centers